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Contract Number:	NAG10-0058
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FINAL TECHNICAL REPORT

TO

NASA/ Kennedy Space Center

FOR

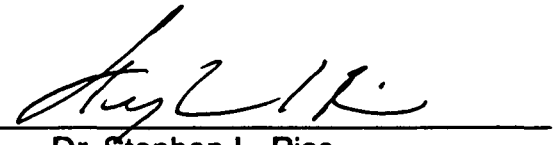
RESEARCH GRANT

entitled

"NASA - PROJECT MANAGEMENT"
Task Definition: Summer 1989

NAG10-0058

May 11, 1990



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Background

In the fall, 1988, exploratory meetings were held to determine ways in which the College of Engineering (COE) of the University of Central Florida (UCF) could assist Kennedy Space Center (KSC) in its mission oriented activities. In these meetings, NASA personnel briefed COE faculty of current projects and programmatic interests, and COE faculty presented their research interests, laboratory capabilities, and so forth. Based upon these exchanges it was evident that a number of projects could be conducted by UCF/COE faculty in support of KSC needs and mission objectives.

In March, 1989, UCF/COE submitted a proposal to KSC entitled "Cooperative Agreement for Technology Development -- Task Definition, Summer, 1989". The purpose of this proposal was "to enable improved problem definition and to initiate working relationships between UCF and KSC personnel". Several specific work areas were identified, including Shuttle Close-Out Data Systems, Public Affairs Information Retrieval, Knowledge Acquisition from Natural Language Input, Non-Destructive Evaluation, Corrosion Protection, and Shuttle Tile Processing. A second proposal followed in June, 1989, to extend the process of defining specific tasks which would form the basis of a Cooperative Agreement covering several areas of technology. These proposals were funded under Grant Number NAG10-0058.

Work Effort

Project management activites included several elements. First among these was setting up procedures for communication between the various colleges and departments involved in the project from the UCF side. Traditionally, universities are highly compartmentalized, however, KSC's need was to have projects operating between and within UCF's Colleges of Engineering, Business, Arts and Science, and Education. Within these various colleges, each faculty Principal Investigator (PI) is assigned to a base work unit which is his/her academic department. Thus, communication channels were set up to involve all of the cognizant college deans, and through them, the respective department chairpersons. The needs of each project were then addressed, and involved the assignment of laboratory and office space, and the setting up of project accounts, the hiring of graduate and undergraduate students and support staff, and so on.

A second major activity involved the development of accounting procedures, databases, and user-friendly formats for presentation of the data per se. This work was accomplished by the COE staff accountant, who developed information which allowed for overall control of funding available to each project and PI. Weekly meetings were held to review accounts and to evaluate budgetary situations. Additional meetings were conducted with each Principal Investigator to determine technical progress, and Program Review meetings were coordinated/held with KSC.

Each subproject has been implemented successfully, and has been supportive of overall KSC mission oriented goals. This has led to the subsequent funding of follow on work under a Cooperative Agreement. The administrative features of the original grant are successfully being applied in this new project as well.